IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

C2

--1. (Amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and having an ability to produce an L-amino acid, which has been modified to increase an expression amount of at least one protein selected from the group consisting of the following proteins of (A) to (H):

(A) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 10;

(B) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein;

(C) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12;

(D) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein;

(E) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 14;

(F) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 13 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1% SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein;

(G) a protein having an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16; or

(H) a protein which is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 15 under stringent conditions of 60°C, 1x SSC and 0.1%

C2. SDS, and which has an activity of increasing the ability to produce the L-amino acid of the bacterium having the protein.--

Please add the following claims.

C3 --27. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine.

28. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.

29. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-alanine.

30. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-valine.

31. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-histidine.

32. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-proline.

33. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-threonine.

34. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-arginine.

35. (New) The bacterium of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-isoleucine.

36. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine.

37. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-glutamic acid.

38. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-alanine.

39. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-valine.

40. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-histidine.

41. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-proline.

42. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-threonine.

43. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-arginine.

44. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-isoleucine.--